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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

The present application being filed herewith is a continuation-in-part of, and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.78(a) and 1.53(b) to, co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/134,616, which is a Continuation in Part of, and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to, U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 08/909,454, filed August 11, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,796,678, issued August 18, 1998.

The present application includes the above claim to priority on lines 4-7 of page 1 of the specification.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Nov. 1, 1999

John S. Reid Reg. No. 36,369